WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A paper trimmer, comprising:

a base including a support surface and a cutting region having a channel;

a plate pivotally attached to the base and including an upper surface, a lower surface, a first end, a second end, and a slot extending through the plate along a longitudinal axis of the plate intermediate the first and second ends, the slot having a first width at a first portion thereof and a second width at a second portion thereof, the first width being larger than the second width;

a carrier being slidably received in the slot and sized to be removed from the slot when corresponding to the first width of the slot and impeded from being removed when corresponding to the second width of the slot; and

a blade attached to the carrier, wherein a portion of the blade extends below the lower surface of the plate within the channel when the plate is disposed over the cutting region.

2. The paper trimmer of claim 1, wherein the carrier includes a top flange having a width greater than that of the slot and a bottom flange having a width greater than that of the slot.

3. The paper trimmer of claim 2, wherein the slot includes the first width at the first end of the plate.

4. The paper trimmer of claim 2, wherein the slot includes the first width at the first and second ends of the plate, and wherein the slot has the second width at the second end of the plate.

5. The paper trimmer of claim 1, wherein the carrier includes first and second cylindrical portions on opposite sides of the slot, and wherein the plate includes an arcuate portions on each side of the slot corresponding to the cylindrical portions of the carrier such that the carrier travels along the plate via the interaction of the cylindrical portions with the arcuate surfaces.

6. The paper trimmer of claim 5, wherein the plate comprises a resilient material.

7. The paper trimmer of claim 6 wherein the lower surface includes a recessed track formed proximate the slot for receiving the bottom flange of the carrier.

8. The paper trimmer of claim 7, wherein the lower surface includes a pair of ribs proximate the recessed track.

9. The paper trimmer of claim 5, wherein the base includes an attachment edge having a plurality of aperture configured for attachment to a ring binder.

11. The paper trimmer of claim 5, wherein the support surface includes a raised guide proximate one of the sides to align the paper or material to be cut.

12. The paper trimmer of claim 5, further comprising: a blade assembly including a blade holder having a first portion and a second portion hingedly connected to the first portion, the blade holder including locating means for positively locating the blade within the first and second portions, the carrier including a cavity to slidably receive the blade assembly.

13. The paper trimmer of claim 12, wherein the locating means includes a stud attached to one of the portions, the blade includes a cutting edge and a foot having an aperture sized to receive the stud.

14. The paper trimmer of claim 13, wherein the blade cutting edge is arcuate.

15. The paper trimmer of claim 13, wherein the blade cutting edge has an apex formed at the juncture of a first cutting portion and a second cutting portion diverging away from one another thereby permitting the user to cut paper by movement of the carrier in either direction along the longitudinal axis.

16. The paper trimmer of claim 1, further comprising a measuring instrument rotably coupled to the base.

17. A material trimmer comprising:

a base having a support surface and a cutting region having a channel;

a plate movably attached to the base and including:

oppositely facing upper and lower surfaces,

an elongated slot therethrough,

an elevated portion proximate each side of the slot, the elevated portion leading to an arcuate surface, and

a distal second end;

a carrier including a top flange having a pair of oppositely extending sides, a foot extending from the top flange, the foot being slidably received within the slot, and a portion of the pair of oppositely extending sides being arcuate in shape and slidably received within the arcuate surface of the elevated portion; and

a blade at ached to the carrier, a portion of the blade extending below the lower surface of the plate within the channel when the plate is disposed over the cutting region.

18. The material cutter of claim 17, wherein the slot has differing minimum and maximum widths, and wherein the foot is capable of being removed from the slot when the carrier corresponds to the maximum width of the slot, and wherein the foot is substantially incapable of being removed from the slot when the carrier corresponds to the minimum width of the slot

19 ~~18~~. The material trimmer of claim 18, wherein the slot has the minimum width at the substantially opposite ends of the plate, and wherein the slot has the maximum width between the substantially opposite ends of the plate.

20 ~~19~~. The material trimmer of claim 17, wherein the elevated portion is angularly defined away from the slot.

21 ~~20~~. The material trimmer of claim 19, wherein the portion of the pair of oppositely extending sides is substantially cylindrical in shape.

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22 21. The material trimmer of claim 17, further comprising a rotatable member coupled to the base.

23 22. The material trimmer of claim 21, wherein the plate is formed from a resilient material.

24 23. A material cutter, comprising:

a base having a support surface and a cutting region having a channel;

a plate movably attached to the base and including:

oppositely facing upper and lower surfaces,

an elongated slot therethrough,

an angled portion proximate each side of the slot, the angled portion leading to an arcuate surface, and

a distal second end;

a carrier including a top flange having a pair of oppositely extending sides, a foot extending from the top flange, the foot being slidably received within the slot, and a portion of the pair of oppositely extending sides being substantially cylindrical in shape and slidably received within the arcuate surface of the elevated portion; and

a blade at ached to the carrier, a portion of the blade extending below the lower surface of the plate within the channel when the plate is disposed over the cutting region.

25 24 24. The material cutter of claim 23, wherein the slot has a nonuniform width.